

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP



A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

Vol. 30 No. 8

August 15, 1962

Whole No. 359



DIME NOVEL SKETCHES NO. 36

OLD CAP COLLIER LIBRARY

Norman L. Munro's entry in the field of dime novel detective series, successfully competing with Frank Tousey's New York Detective Library and George Munro's Old Sleuth Library, first appeared April 9, 1883, size $9\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{3}{4}$, 32 or more pages. Sold at 10c each, with non-pictorial cover in one color, buff or brick red. With No. 331 size increased to $12 \times 8\frac{1}{2}$, 32 pages with black and white pictorial cover. Size changed back to smaller size with No. 395. Pictorial covers continued to the end, No. 822, dated September 9, 1899. Earlier numbers were reissued with black and white pictorial covers. Late numbers reprinted stories from Golden Hours.

Young Diamond Dick

By J. Edward Leithead

(continued from last issue)

Diamond Dick, Jr. Weekly was enlarged to 8x11 with #239, Diamond Dick's Own Brand, or, Two of a Kind Against the Field. Cook was going great guns. He wrote about the "Comet Mine," "salted" and sold to old Diamond Dick as worthless, but which turned out to be as big a bonanza as the Comstock Lode, causing the original owners to make every effort, mostly foul, to recover the property. Comet City, a tough mining town which sprang up around the mine was cleaned of its troublemakers by the Dicks and Handsome Harry. This Comet Mine series kept reader interest at a high pitch for some time.

Then there was the fascinating "T. N. & P. RR." series, with the Dicks running a railroad. What a fertile field for a writer with a good, lively imagination—a Western railroad, with hold-up men, strikes, and what-not to make things interesting for the owners. Author Cook was right in his element and so were the pistol-handly Diamond Dicks.

Cook brought them prominently into the cattle trade, too, and some fine Western auction pictures were supplied by Artists Russell, Johnson and another I can't name, as I never learned who he was. The Dicks had a few non-Western adventures, as re-

lated by Cook in #341, Diamond Dick's Trip East, or, Turning the Tables on the City Sharps, #342, Diamond Dick's Summer Resort, or, High Old Times at the Sea Shore, #343 Diamond Dick's "Give-And-Take," or, Caught in the Undertow, #346, Diamond Dick at Coney Island, or, A Warm Proposition Played to a Finish, and here, in the Eastern big towns—dressed for the West!—the Wades, father and son, battled the lawless just as they did on the plains. Nor were these the only non-Western adventures they had, but it isn't necessary to list all.

Of reprints, as already noted, Diamond Dick, Jr. Weekly had its full share, even using some of its own early issues; from #239 to #293, the stories were new, but #294 through #328 were reprints of #1 through #45, omitting #7, 11, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 40 and 41. The cover illustrations during this run of reprints were in some cases the same as on the earlier issues, but in others new scenes of action were depicted.

With 329, Diamond Dick's Challenge, or, The Rival Cattle Kings, new stories began again—Cook evidently had been given time to create a stock-pile of tales—and for awhile Diamond Dick Sr. held the spotlight, though Bertie and Handsome Harry were on hand

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Edward T. LeBlanc, 87 School St., Fall River, Mass.

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Assistant Editor

Ralph F. Cummings, 161 Pleasant St., S. Grafton, Mass.

Asst. Ed. Photography—Charles Duprez, 228 Larch Lane, Smithtown, L.I., N.Y.

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Ads should be submitted by the 15th of the month in order to assure publication in the following month's issue.

(one stray reprint got into this run, though well disguised both in title and picture—#340, Diamond Dick Missing, or, The Veteran's Unknown Pard, a verbatim reprint of #60, Diamond Dick Jr. Out of Sight, except that the father replaced Bertie in the title role in the later version. Several "boy pards" were on hand, too. Two-spot Peters and Nixey Peters, one from New York, the other from Chicago, no relation to each other despite the same surname; Fritz Dunder and Ben Recklin, called "Reckless Ben", who owned a smart dog named "Joker".

The remarkable Wades even entered show business; there were numerous stories about them with the circus as a background, beginning as far back as one by T. C. Harbaugh, #32, Diamond Dick, Jr.'s Big Contract, or, How Handsome Harry Beat the Circus. I've counted 14 stories relating to the circus in this weekly, most of them by Cook, but a few by Jenks, too, and he should have known how to write them for he had at one time been a circus press agent.

A curious link between Diamond Dick, Jr. Weekly and the Buffalo Bill Stories is that old Diamond Dick, in stories about him by Cook, rode a horse named "Bear Paw" — a good name for the horse of a Westerner, you'll allow—and some stories about Buffalo Bill by W. Bert Foster had Cody riding a horse of the same name. No, it isn't a case of Buffalo Bill tales by Cook instead of Foster, although Cook himself, in some of his LATER Buffalo Bill tales kept the scout mounted on Bear Paw. The first time this black war-horse appeared with Buffalo Bill in the saddle was during a long run of Buffalo Bill Stories by Foster, beginning with #335, and I know they are Foster's as well as I know my own name. I doubt that Foster was acquainted with the early issues of Diamond Dick, Jr., as he didn't write for Street & Smith until 1906, and Cook had been there long before he joined up. So, put it down to coincidence that Cook and Foster both hit on the name "Bear Paw" as appropriate for a frontiersman's best

saddle-horse.

Until recently, when I made a close examination (close as possible, that is, today), I always credited George C. Jenks with the creation of Billy Doo, the tough Chicago kid who became young Diamond Dick's boy pard. It was in 1905 that Billy first showed up, #426, Diamond Dick, Jr. and the "Knock Down" Men, and this was one of William Wallace Cook's last for that weekly for a long time; he had only #427, 428 and 429 to do before turning the writing of the Diamond Dick romances over to Jenks.

So credit Cook with William Doo—little from Chi, twelve years old when introduced but attaining the age of sixteen under Jenks and imitating young Diamond Dick in the cowboy garb with which Jenks promptly clothed Bertie Wade; Jenks took hold with #430 and ran a series with Handsome Harry as chief character, the Sarpint even getting his name in the titles, #430 through #446, except for #439 and #440, two Diamond Dick, Jr. titles. Jenks disposed of old Diamond Dick by never referring to him, dropped young Diamond Dick's given name of Bertie, and introduced two characters of his own creation that were quite as interesting as any that had gone before—Dick's girl pard, the dainty, dark-haired Belle Bellair (what a doll!) and sinister, knife-slinging, spruce Jack Sinn, "that Pale Man from Oregon" with the black, lank hair and snaky mustache, the double-dealing desperado who could make a promise and keep it, if he had to slit a weasand.

Young Diamond Dick, as portrayed by Jenks, was scout, cowboy and United States marshal, a marshal with a sort of roving commission, for he went everywhere, down into Old Mexico after bandits, up into Canada to help the Royal Northwest Mounted Police, and to the Klondike goldfields (of course, he'd been up there before when he was younger). Always his marshal's badge was his passport and potent, no matter how far out of U. S. territory he got. He was also the president of a southern railroad with an office at Pocomo, New Mexico. This was a hang-

over from the railroading days of the "father and son" combination by Cook; Jenks didn't give too much time to it, but some—he was more for ranch and range stuff, the cowboy and the Indian.

There is evidence that Jenks was somewhat influenced by a series of Western stories, most of them humorous and told in heavy Western dialect by a character called the Old Cattleman. He was spokesman for Author "Alfred Henry Lewis," real name Dan Quinn (a good-looking Irishman, I've seen his picture), who was a friend of Bat Masterson's and achieved considerable fame in writing the "Wolfville" stories, which first appeared in magazines (at least, some did, as I read them in the old *Cosmopolitan*) and later were published as hard-cover books by Frederick A. Stokes Co., I think—*Wolfville*, *Wolfville Days*, *Wolfville Nights*, *Wolfville Folks* and *Faro Nell and Her Friends*. Quinn wrote at least two novels besides the *Wolfville* tales (which were shorts), one being *The Throwback*, the other *The Sunset Trail*, of which Bat Masterson was the hero, Wild Bill Hickok also showing up in Dodge City while Bat was there.

The Old Cattleman, Old Man Enright, Doc Peets, Benson Annie, Faro Nell and a militant female and her long-suffering spouse whose names escape me after all these years, were among the regular characters who peopled the *Wolfville*, Arizona, scene. I believe the first sign that Jenks was acquainted with the fictional *Wolfville* scene was his putting on the dime novel map the likewise fictional town of *Lame Dog*, Wyoming. It appeared in the title of #477, *Diamond Dick on the Fire-line*, or, *The Boys in Red at Lame Dog* (the volunteer fire department of this more or less rowdy cattle town). It was frequently the scene of *Diamond Dick's* adventures thereafter, and Handsome Harry, running in opposition to Jack Sinn, the gambler desperado, was elected mayor of *Lame Dog* in #552. The town's name showed up in the story titles more than once—#559, *Diamond Dick, Editor*, or, *A Rattling Surprise for Lame*

Dog, #552, *Diamond Dick's Hoodlum Trail*, or, *Hot Politics at Lame Dog*, #567, *Diamond Dick's Cut-off*, or, *The Eastern Invasion of Lame Dog*. It was the scene of many stories which did not carry the name "*Lame Dog*" in the title. *Pocomo*, New Mexico, also was a frequent stopping-place for Dick and pards.

Among the humorous characters inhabiting *Lame Dog*—and Jenks not only intended them to be funny but succeeded in making them so—were Simon Crutcher and his wife. She, a boarding-house keeper, was the kind of belligerent female to keep a man on the jump, and Simon, although anything but spineless in male company, seldom put up more than feeble resistance when she ordered him around. There was a similar couple in the *Wolfville* stories, as mentioned before (and they were there first); unfortunately, I do not remember their name, but it certainly wasn't crutcher. This harried *Wolfville* spouse finally decided—in *Wolfville Folks*, I think—that he had had all he could take and went to live with the Apaches. My recollection is that the unmarried males of *Wolfville*, fearing the absent husband might be declared legally dead or get himself scalped, and thus make any one of them a target for the mourning but still warlike "widow," took immediate steps to bring the fugitive back alive to the lady.

Jenks developed some of his humorous situations (there was always a bit of humor in his stories) by playing off the small Billy Doo and the giant Handsome Harry against each other. Although the two would have gone any lengths to help each other—and did—Billy was forever twitting the Sarpint over his great size, his red beard, his awkwardness, his slow wit (the big plainsman being, however, quite agile physically and mentally alert). Harry would take it good-naturedly for a while, then, howling his war cry, threaten to annihilate the young pest. Even at critical moments these two would bicker without regard for safety, and Dick would interfere.

There were many outstanding cow-

boy, bad man and outlaw yarns by George Jenks—#498, Diamond Dick on the Dead Line, or, The Battle of Canyon Creek, #517, Diamond Dick's Ghostly Round-up, or, The Phantom Steer of K-Bar-6, #518, Diamond Dick's Big Drive, or, Holding Them Down in a Blizzard, #541, Diamond Dick's Wide Loop, or, Roping Five at One Throw, all range and range rider stuff and many more of the same; #474, Diamond Dick's Silver Star, or, Cleaning Up a Bad Town, #476, Diamond Dick's Holdup, or, The Raid on Robbers' Roost, #500, Diamond Dick's Midnight Duel, or, The Girl Bandit of Powder River, #512, Diamond Dick in the Saddle, or, The Secret of the Steel Glove, #515, Diamond Dick's Mystic Mark, or, The Handkerchief Man's Vendetta, #521, Diamond Dick's Steel Glove, or, The Smiling Man from Santa Fe, #554, Diamond Dick on Guard, or, The Treasure Train of Valjejo, mostly about the depredations of the Steel Glove Gang and the Handkerchief Men. Jenks seldom killed off an outlaw gang to the last man, so that they couldn't be used again. Apparently he got tired of Jack Sinn's reappearances or thought he deserved final erasure for, in #588, Diamond Dick's Short Order, or, How Jack Sinn Settled Up, Dick gives the gambler des-

perado bullet rubout.

(to be continued)

NEWSY NEWS

By Ralph F. Cummings

161 Pleasant St., So. Grafton, Mass.

J. P. Quinon was bitten by a "brown recluse" spider and was laid up for quite a few weeks.

I see you can get colorful posters on "Frank Merriwell in Arizona" — these are fine action full, colorful posters on a typical American production of about 1914—available in two sizes. One sheet, 27x40 inches—\$5.00. (Also available mounted on heavy compoboard for \$10.00 (plus \$2.50 for packing and shipping), also three sheet, 40x81 inches—\$12.50. Complete, clean and in excellent condition, for sale by John E. Allen, 92 Highland St., Park Ridge, N. J.

Herbert Kenney is a great reader of Mrs. Southworth's novels, while I like the Laura Jean Libbey and Bertha Clay and Mrs. Alex McVeigh Miller romances. Bert has me beat, as he can read 4 and 5 novels at a time, that's going some, who else can top that?

Bert took a trip down to see his brother, up in Maine, or shall we say, "down east," and on his way home on May 15th, he stopped in to see Bill Burns, they had quite a chat.

Don Learnard visited with Harry K. Hudson, while down in Florida. Don had a time of it calling on old friends, etc., Gracie his wife, too.

Charles Duprez has been very sick, and still it. Neuritis, with no relief in sight, so he says, but let's hope he is wrong, and that the nice weather makes him feel 100 percent better.

Capt. Frank C. Acker is back in the good old U. S. once more, and I'll bet he is glad to get back too, also his wife Ginny.

Lou Kohrt has just got back from a nice visit with George Sahr and Frank Schott. It's nice to have a car, then you can go places. I never could afford a car, myself. I don't know as I could drive one now, anyway. Lou stopped in to see Wilbur Duer early in

FOR SALE

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Stories of Frank and Dick Merriwell and Tip Top Weekly are my specialty. Have hundreds in good condition at reasonable prices. Send want list.

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BACK NUMBERS

of Reckless Ralph's Dime Novel Roundup Nos. 1 to 237 for sale.

Ralph F. Cummings

161 Pleasant St., So. Grafton, Mass.

June and had a very fine visit with him. Lou has a lot of old novels and St. Nicholas mags to sell. Any one interested, if so, send list of numbers wanted.

Does any one have any information on a dime novel about Colorado Charlie Utter, a friend of Wild Bill Hickok? Supposedly one was published about 1883 with the title "I'm No

Slouch." Any information would be appreciated by the publisher.

I want to buy the following PULP MAGAZINES

Good, complete copies with covers.

"Oriental Stories"
"Thrill Book"
"Spicy Adventure"
"Spicy Mystery"
"Weird Tales" (early)
"Terror Tales"
"Horror Stories"
"Marvel Tales" May 1940
"Uncanny Tales" April 1939
"Argosy" Sept. 19, 1925
"Frank Reade Library"

Write:

ART DOBIN

Edward Ingraham

402 Brentwood, Havertown, Pa.

7513 So. Vernon Ave., Chicago 19, Ill.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Change of Address

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- 50 Capt. Frank C. Acker, 140 Prospect St., Providence, R. I.
- 84 Ross R. DeVean, 4571 Arlington, Apt. G-1, Riverside, Calif.
- 176 Keith H. Thompson, Dept. of Biology, Brookhaven Nat'l Lab., Upton, L. I. N. Y.
- 202 Roger Butterfield, 173 Riverside Drive, New York 24, N. Y.

FOR SALE

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WANTED

BEADLE'S POCKET LIBRARY. Will pay \$5.00 each for No. 44 and 47, or \$35.00 for Volume 4 of the set containing these numbers. Must be in nice condition.

MEDAL LIBRARY (not Merriwell Series) containing stories of the Merriwells and Owen Clancy. Good covers with nice insides essential.

TIP TOP WEEKLY (LIBRARY). Will pay \$200.00 for the complete run 1 to 45, or proportionately for single issues. Must be in first class condition in every way, in original colored covers, not trimmed down, repaired or brittle.

J. P. GUINON

P. O. Box 214

Little Rock, Ark.

FOR SALE

Wild West Weekly: 21 38 56 58 65 72 94 118 153. \$2.50 each.

17 23 29 30 32 34 39 41 45 46 85 190 191 199 200 201 203
204 209 234 242 244 245 252 253 256 266 275 276 280 281
282 283 284 286 294 295 305 310 325 336 342 343 353 355
357 360 361 364. \$2.00 each.

19 31 61 68 78 84 86 87 211 213 226 246 254 265 272 313
322 332 337 339 351 365. \$1.50 each.

13 49 54 80 82 90 95 96 99 144 230 278 293 304 319 350
362. \$1.00 each.

8 11 70 207 232 248 269 291 344. 75c each.

170 188 192 222 236 257 307 314 323 338 352 356 359 367
368. 50c each.

369 370 372 374 375 378 381 383 386 388 389 390 392 393
394 396 397 398 399 401 403 404 406 407 409 410 412 413
417 420 421 422 423 424 426 428 429 431 432. \$1.50 each or
12 for \$15.00.

432 434 435 437 441 442 443 456 460 461. \$1.25 each or 10
for \$10.00.

Liberty Boys of '76: 98 134 148 150 178 300 307 314 315 316 318
321 327 370 389 390 391. \$2.50 each.

73 95 151 162 186. \$2.50 each.

361 365 399. \$1.50 each.

Secret Service: 270 330 342 369 379 389 391 397 404 435 437 445
447 464 469 482 486 492 501 502 506 510 513 514 515 516
518 520 521 522 523 527 528 533 534 535 536 537 538 541
543. \$2.00 each.

292 320 361 392 403 415 423 432 434 546. \$1.50 each.

116 257 362 381 425 427 428 430. \$1.00 each.

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165 173 175 177 178 179 205 213 232 236 256 286 303. \$2.00
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402 422 431 434. \$1.50 each.

133 239 243 260 293 314 320 349 369 446 515 566 579 583
593. \$1.00 each.

276 461 520 577. 50c each.

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Wide Awake Library. \$1.00 up. A few at 50c each.

Brookside Library. Mostly 25c each. A few higher.

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Secret Service. After #951. 75c each.

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Small size—Fame & Fortune, Work & Win. 25c each.

Small size—Pluck & Luck, Secret Service. 3 for \$1.

Frank Mauley's Weekly. (Average condition) 50c-75c each.

Comic Library. \$1.00 each, up.

Muldoons in Wide Awake Library, \$2.00 each, up.

Comics in Wide Awake Library, \$1.00 each, up.

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Nickel novel assortment. Good condition. 10 for \$7.50.

Assorted nickel novels, not good enough for regular prices, 9 for \$3 00 (Front cover on, at least).

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